

S/N: 10/823,901

Docket 2003P18698US

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office communication dated January 23, 2008.

Summary

Claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 - 22 are currently amended.

Claims 1 - 29 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3 - 8, 10 - 17, 19 - 25, 27, and 29 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cruickshank (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,468). Claims 2, 8 - 9, 12, 18 - 19, and 26 - 28 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cruickshank in view of Davis et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0021344) and further in view of Kanevsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,704).

Claim 1 recites selecting a conversion parameter for the conversion program based on the endpoint identifier. One benefit of selecting a conversion parameter based on the endpoint identifier is that the claimed techniques may customize the conversion program based on the entities using the endpoints. For example, when the endpoint identifier (e.g., a name) is determined to be a male name, the system may specify a male voice model parameter for the conversion program (Specification, paragraph [055]).

Cruickshank fails to disclose selecting a conversion parameter for the conversion program based on the endpoint identifier. Cruickshank performs speech to text conversion (col. 6, lines 37 - 58). After conversion, "[t]he textual representation of each participant's speech may then be transmitted by teleconference bridge server 122,

S/N: 10/823,901

Docket 2003P18698US

together with a speaker identifier, to those participants having a display device" (col. 6, lines 42 – 45). However, Cruickshank does not select a conversion parameter for the conversion based on, as claimed, the speaker identifier of a first endpoint from which data is received for delivery to a different second endpoint. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Dependent claims 3 – 8 and 10 depend from allowable claim 1, and are allowable for at least this reason. Further features of the dependent claims are allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 10 recites reading a name indicia that identifies the source of the first conference-endpoint data. Claim 10 notes that the conversion parameter comprises a voice model conversion parameter that distinguishes between male and female voice production. Cruickshank does not disclose such a conversion parameter chosen based on an endpoint identifier. This feature helps the claimed techniques deliver data to a destination endpoint that is consistent with characteristics of the entity using the source endpoint. Thus, if a female speaker is using the first endpoint, the second endpoint may receive endpoint communications generated by a female vocal model, for example. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the cited reference.

Independent claim 11 recites the processor is operable to filter, according to a filter criteria, the first conference-endpoint data, the second conference-endpoint data, or both to eliminate data that would otherwise be communicated to the first endpoint, the second endpoint, or both. Filtering helps to reduce the amount of data that the system must process and communicate to the potentially many endpoints connected to a conference.

Cruickshank fails to disclose filtering, according to a filter criteria, the first conference-endpoint data, the second conference-endpoint data, or both to eliminate data that would otherwise be communicated to the first endpoint, the second endpoint, or both. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable over the cited reference.

S/N: 10/823,901

Docket 2003P18698US

Dependent claims 12 – 20 depend from allowable claim 11, and are allowable for at least this reason. Further features of the dependent claims are allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 19 recites that the filter criteria comprises an n–loudest filter criteria for processing only endpoint data only from the n–loudest endpoints connected to a conference, including the first and second endpoints. Using an n–loudest filter criteria for processing only endpoint data only from the n–loudest endpoints provides a way to reduce the processing load on the conference system, while retaining much of the relevant incoming information. The cited references fail to disclose an n–loudest filter criteria. Therefore, claim 19 is allowable over the cited reference.

Independent claim 21 recites decoding the first conference-endpoint data with a first Coder / Decoder (CODEC) to obtain decoded first conference-endpoint data. Claim 21 also recites recoding the decoded first conference-endpoint data by applying a specific CODEC, different than the first CODEC, on the decoded first conference-endpoint data. Decoding and recoding with different CODECs facilitates adapting conference data to the particular format expected by any recipient endpoint.

Cruickshank fails to disclose using first and second CODECs to decode and recode the endpoint data. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable over the cited reference.

Dependent claims 22 – 29 depend from allowable claim 21, and are allowable for at least this reason. Further features of the dependent claims are allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 22 recites negotiating with the second endpoint to determine the specific CODEC for the second endpoint. Negotiating with the second endpoint facilitates adapting the endpoint data for the second endpoint, regardless of the particular format (which may change at any time) expected by the second endpoint. The cited references fail to disclose negotiating with an endpoint to determine the appropriate CODEC.

S/N: 10/823,901

Docket 2003P18698US

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APR 17 2008

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Issuance of the present application as a patent is therefore solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fees from, or credit any overpayment to, this deposit account at any time during the pendency of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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